

PYRAMIDS IN AMERICA.

TWO BUILT OF MUD ARE LOCATED IN THE UNITED STATES.

Hidden Away in New Mexico—In a Valley of the Rockies Far From the Path of Travel—Strange People Who are Citizens, but Do Not Vote Nor Pay Taxes.

Pyramids in the United States? Yes, two of them. They are built of mud and inhabited. One, says the Chicago-Times Herald, has six stories and the other five, and both have many rooms. The inhabitants have two names, two religions and two languages. They are Christians and pagans at the same time—Catholics and sun worshippers. They have one church above ground and several worshipping places below ground. They are citizens of the United States, but neither vote nor pay taxes. They have a republic of their own and never carry their internal disputes outside their own primitive court. They owned their little domain of six miles square long before the United States came into existence, and they lease farms to the descendants of haughty Europeans. They are the real first families of the country, for their forefathers were living in these same pyramids when civilization discovered them 250 years ago. They are aborigines but farmers. They are semi-civilized, but they punish with the stocks and the whipping post, and until recently stoned witches to death.

In many things this remarkable people reverses the white man's order. The children trace their descent through the mother instead of the father. The wife owns the house and all it contains. Fires for baking are built in the oven instead of under it. In the fireplaces the wood is burned standing on end. The people go into their houses through the roofs, pulling up behind them the ladder used in mounting the building, thus very nearly accomplishing the feat of going into a hole and pulling it in after them.

The pyramids of the American Egypt are tucked away in a little valley among the Rocky Mountains of northern New Mexico. A few years ago they were 4000 miles from a railroad. To-day one can get within thirty-five miles of them by rail by going north from Santa Fe to Embudo, but after that the rugged canon of the Rio Grande del Norte and brown, waterless, interminable mesas make the approach a trying journey of dust, jolts and weariness.

The American pyramids are known as El Pueblo de Taos. It is the northernmost settlement of that strange race which has left the American Egypt strewn with the ruins of ancient cities.



ENTRANCE TO AN UNDERGROUND PAGAN CHAPEL.

Their people, according to the best authorities, are descendants of the cliff dwellers, and the pyramidal form of their community houses was another device to protect themselves from their hereditary enemies, the Apaches, the Navajos and the Utes. A captain under Coronado, who came up from Mexico in search of the fabled seven cities of Cibola, whose people ate from golden dishes, discovered these pyramids in 1540, and they stand to-day just as he described them, though one-story dwellings have sprung up about the foot of the pyramids since the American occupation assured peace. The larger building has ninety-seven rooms and the smaller seventy-two. The inhabitants number about 400.

The walls of these community



SIX-STORY PYRAMID WITH 97 ROOMS.

houses are made of these bricks dried in the sun. The front wall of the second story was built back from the front of the first story, making a broad terrace. The succeeding stories were constructed in similar manner, and as all four sides of the building were terraced the structure became a pyramid. The roofs were formed by laying saplings across the walls and covering them with mud. Until recently there were neither doors nor windows in any of the walls, and even now there are very few. The people climb up the outside on rude ladders, which may be pulled up after them if danger threatens, and they enter their homes through holes in the roof. Many of the dark rooms near the centre of the

pyramids are in decay, and others are used for storing grain. Some of the living rooms are whitewashed. Fire-places are made by constructing a mud hood across a corner with a mud flue running to the roof, and pinyon and cedar brought from the mountains are burned standing on end in the corner. The broad terraces are the playground of the children and the lounging place of the "old folks."

When discovered by the Spanish conquistadores these people were not only peaceful farmers, but they wore cotton clothing bought from their cousins in the warmer lowlands farther south, as well as the skins of wild animals. To-day the men wear in summer cotton leggings held up by a string and a print shirt falling loosely outside the leggings. In cold weather they add moccasins and blankets. The women wear a skirt of colored cotton, and the waist is a piece of cloth wound around the body over the right shoulder and under the left arm. For gain



TAOS INDIANS.

attire they have gayly flowered clothing with a silk shawl for the head and white backskin moccasins with leggings wrapped about the legs until they are nearly as big as stove pipes.

The good padres who came into the wilderness of the southwest with the Spanish explorers and conquerors grafted the Christian faith on the pagan religion, and the world is presented with the strange spectacle of a people with two religions, both carefully observed and held in reverence. There is a little Catholic church in which faithful priests have taught Christian doctrines for many generations and brought the simple natives to such an understanding that they resent any interference with their Christian rites. At the same time they continue their pagan ceremonies in secret—except their annual sun dance.

They have several covered holes in the ground, each perhaps twenty-five feet in diameter and fifteen feet deep. They are known as estufas. Here the pagan priests perform the mystic rites of their sun worship, and no white man is permitted to witness them. These people also have organizations corresponding to the secret societies of civilized communities, whose members meet and lounge in the estufas, and women are seldom or never allowed to enter them. The entrance to these places is by a ladder through the roof. A hollow in the middle of the floor serves for a fireplace. At the bottom of the wall enter small shafts, which permit cold air to come in from the outside. The heated air from the fire flies out at the opening above, and thus this primitive people solved the problem of ventilation centuries before civilized man groped his way out of the darkness of sanitary error. The feather is a symbol of prayer with the pyramid dwellers. They tie the downy feather of an eagle to a twig, stick it in the ground in an out of the way place where it is not likely to be disturbed, and so long as it remains there it is a prayer constantly going up to the Trues above.

The event of the year in the pagan religion is the thanksgiving day of the sun worshippers. The Christian priests have inaugurated the day with a service at the church and they have stamped the festa with the name of the Catholic saint selected by their forefathers as the patron saint of the community. The festa is therefore

six square miles of the fertile, well-watered valley of Taos, made by the Spaniards more than a hundred years ago, has been confirmed by Uncle Sam, and the people support themselves by farming. They do much of their plowing with sticks dragged through the soft soil by ponies. The chief crops are corn and wheat. The wheat is thrashed, as in biblical times, by ponies tramping out the grain. It is winnowed by throwing it into the air with a pitchfork on a windy day. The grain is then separated from the heavier straw by running it through a sieve made of sheep skin punched full of holes and stretched on a wooden frame. In this process considerable dirt clings in the creases of the kernels, and the wheat has to be washed to be cleaned, though many persons think that too finicky.

The married men of the pyramid community elect a set of officers once a year. There are a Governor, a Lieutenant-Governor, an Alcald, a War Captain and several Assistants. The inauguration takes place on New Year's Day in the church. The old officers gather on one side of the room and the new officers on the other. They march in single file toward the altar, and as they meet, the old Gobernador passes to his successor a silver-headed ebony cane, presented to the pueblo by Abraham Lincoln in 1863. Common wands are transferred by the other retiring officers. The new officers generally insist also on taking an oath before the County Judge, although he has no authority in the matter. The natives imagine that their action is ratified by the Government of the United States. They also have a Cacique, who is hereditary and holds his position for life. He is the head of the system of pagan religion, while the Governor is the head of civil affairs,

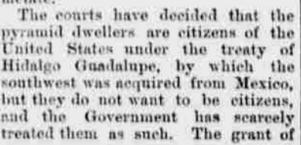
with bodies striped in black and white, like zebras, amuse the people with clown buffoonery as may be suggested by the occasion, much the same as the clown of a circus, making faces, cracking jokes and making elaborate attempts at various feats, only to fail. This is the one occasion of the year when Apaches, Utes and Navajos are permitted to pitch camp on the reservation, and some of these wild tribes are sure to be present to get a share of the good things given away. The antipathy to the Mexicans is forgotten, and Americans are prized as guests of honor.

The subject races early learned the Spanish language from their conquerors, and for 200 years or more it has been the common tongue of south-western peoples speaking various languages. Even Americans in many parts of the southwest are forced to learn it in order to facilitate their affairs. The work of the Catholic Church and the tenacity of the Mexi-

can have kept the Castilian prominent even under American rule. The pyramid dwellers, therefore, learn Spanish for communication with the outside world and retain their own ancient tongue for home life. Few of them know any English.

Every new born babe is baptized by the Catholic priest and characterized by a Spanish name, except in a few cases in which French priests, who have been brought in by the present archbishop have given French names. But the pagan shaman also christens the babe. Facing the East in the morning twilight, he awaits the moment when the sun shall peep over the Taos Mountains, towering 13,000 feet above the sea, when he bestows on the infant a native name by which he is known among his intimates. These people are divided into clans designated as eagle, corn, etc., and members of the same clan are not permitted to intermarry. They have an admirable family life. The fields and the products of the chase belong to the husband. The house and the children belong to the wife. The crops are the husband's until they are housed, when they become the wife's. She grinds the corn and wheat between stones, and this rude mill is known as a metate.

The courts have decided that the pyramid dwellers are citizens of the United States under the treaty of Hidalgo Guadalupe, by which the southwest was acquired from Mexico, but they do not want to be citizens, and the Government has scarcely treated them as such. The grant of



RUINS OF CHURCH BOMBARDED BY AMERICAN CANNON IN 1848.

at Jacksonwald, the dress of Mrs. Mary Steinmetz, a widow, caught fire while she was at the bake oven. She was literally roasted to death. At Reading, the dress of Mrs. Florence Miller, aged 23 years, caught fire while she was preparing dinner. She died.

James G. Path, aged 19, on Manor Hill, Huntington county, jumped from a freight train at Petersburg and fell into the wheels. Both legs were crushed. He was brought to the Altoona Hospital, where his legs were amputated.

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Herman P. Schulz, convicted of murdering his wife, and awaiting sentence at the penitentiary, attempted to anticipate the execution by strangling himself. He did not succeed. He says he will starve himself.

While bathing in the Allegheny river at Reading, John Collins had an attack of cramps and was nearly drowned. When he returned to consciousness he took a hemorrhage, and died.

A boy named McCreary, aged 12 years, was run over and almost instantly killed near Sheridan station. His home is at Derry, and he was here on a visit to his uncle, Joseph Ager.

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David Stauffer, aged 55 years, committed suicide by taking strychnine at his home near Pleasantville, York county. Financial reverses were the cause.

While making a connection with a gas main at Greenville, James O'Neal and his helper were overcome and taken out unconscious. They will recover.

James Canon and William Rice, painters, fell from a scaffold at Tyrone. Both are at Altoona hospital with broken bones.

W. A. Kellar, proprietor of a boarding house in Grove City, was arrested and sent to court on a charge of selling liquor illegally.

Diocletian Shipley, general contractor, Uniontown, has assigned to J. S. Douglas. Assets and liabilities about \$3,500 each.

At Bethlehem, Amos F. Sigendall, carpenter, fired four shots at his wife, missing her, and then put a bullet in his heart.

Picture stealing in galleries seems to be epidemic in Europe. Two cases have recently been reported from Paris, two from Budapest and one from Madrid.

GREAT FEATHERED CREATURE.

Remains of a Bird That Was Twelve Feet High Discovered in Australia.

Dr. E. C. Stirling announces that he discovered, during a visit to Australia, from which he has just returned, the remains of an extinct bird which in life measured twelve feet in height. The bird, as Dr. Stirling describes it, is unknown to history. In some respects, it resembles the elephant-footed moa, and in others the emu of the present day. It differs from all in so great a degree, however, as to prove it to have been of a class by itself. Large quantities of the remains were discovered, showing that centuries ago this great-feathered creature was a common sight on the Australian plains.

The place of discovery is called Lake Callabonna and is located in South Australia. It has at any time been visited by other than the natives, Dr. Stirling found no trace of the fact. Lake Callabonna is one of those basins which are dignified with the name of lake, but only become such during those tremendous downpours of water which transform the seeming Australian desert into the verdure-clad plain. While Dr. Stirling visited it,

Dr. George K. Edwards, of New Castle, died in the room at Princeton College he had occupied during his college course. Dr. Edwards was a favorite with undergraduates, and his devotion to his alma mater is shown by the fact that while ill he traveled here from California in order to die in the town where he had spent the most enjoyable days of his life.

In the absence of his parents, Earl Fairbank, the 4-year-old son of David M. Fairbank, of Cooperstown, obtained his father's revolver and was toying with the deadly weapon while looking into the barrel of the pistol the weapon was discharged. The bullet entered the unfortunate little fellow's mouth. He will surely die.

An intoxicated brakeman named Michael Mann on the St. Marys road forcibly ejected the engineer and fireman from the cab of the engine, and ran the train several miles to the station of Brandy Camp, near Ridgway, where he stopped for more intoxicants, and was caught by his pursuers.

John Keer, Fred Miller and "Sluggers" Hanan are in the lock-up for injuries inflicted on James Wilson, a truck boss at Perry coke works, Uniontown. The three fell on Wilson, struck him on the head with a brick, jumped on him and kicked him into insensibility. His skull is thought to be fractured.

Harry W. Wilson, surviving member of the firm of A. W. Wilson & Son, at Indiana, made an assignment, being unable to continue business since his father died. The assignee is George H. Stewart, Mr. Wilson's brother-in-law. Creditors are said to be numerous in the surrounding country.

Olga, the three-months-old child of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Herman, of Johnstown, was found dead in bed when its parents returned home after being out a short time. It had rolled to one side from a pillow, which fell across its face, smothering it.

Blanche, aged 13, daughter of Jacob Rubnitz, of Conemaugh, used kerosene with which to start a fire. She will die. She ran wildly to a rain barrel and jumped into it. This she was able to do out of the flames, but not until she had been fatally burned.

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KEYSTONE STATE NEWS CONDENSED.

TO ADD BOROUGHS.

Morrellville and Cooperdale want to become part of Johnstown.

The board of trade of Johnstown instructed the Municipal committee to collect facts concerning the annexation to this city of Morrellville and Cooperdale, so the board may be able to place the matter intelligently before city councils. This move in the direction of a greater Johnstown is the result of many citizens of these borough being anxious to come into the city.

The following pensions have been granted: William Evans, Pittsburgh; Alexander J. Swaney, Fairchance; Thomas Nolan, Oswayo; Patrick Burk, Hollidaysburg; Robert D. Wampler, Larimer; Michael Fleiter, Manorville; Andrew J. Putnam, Stony Fork; August Feevey, Elkhorn; Matilda J. Wetzel, Obitonia; Catharine Kugel, Johnstown; Harriet Motvin, Pittsburg; Samuel H. Croyle, Jeannette; Christopher Cramer, Warren; John Moore, Scott Haven; David K. Edwards, Johnstown; Horatio Rockwood, Union City; George Currie, Dayton, Armstrong county; William B. Serlock, North Hill; and Moses Jackson, Glade Mills, Butler co.; Phillip Fawver, Oriental, Juniata county; Andrew J. Stumpf, Big Run, and James C. Leabhart, Lindsay, Jefferson county; Alfred Ordway, Miles Grove, and George W. McComber, Albion, Erie county; William A. Altemus, Brush valley, Indiana county; Andrew J. Young, Jefferson, Greene county.

At Lelensing No. 3 Henry G. Knight, a coke worker employed at the H. C. Erick Coke company, was mourning at the wake over the remains of James Durkin, a friend who was killed in a railroad crossing in New Haven. At midnight he left the room in which the corpse was. Knight appeared in perfect health, but he walked only as far as the door when he dropped to the ground. The remains were brought to this place to the home of his mother. Knight was 30 years old and single.

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John Lepko was killed by a fall of slate at the Dumlo mines, Cambria county.

The barn of Samuel Clark, of Homer City, was struck by lightning, one horse being killed and two injured.

Haker Bebout of West Washington was badly injured by an explosion of gas in his bakery. He will recover.

William Little of Washington found burglars in his house and fired at them. They got away with a watch.

O. M. Francis, aged 70, a farmer of Wayne township, Lawrence county, was killed by a train near Moravia.

The Wolford Gas Company, Smithport, has been granted a charter. Capital, \$16,000.

James O'Toole, aged 14, lost his life at Johnstown, while attempting to board a freight train.

PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATURE.

June 4. House, Mr. Neelbit of Northampton, offered a bill for re-annexation. That the Committee of Public Buildings and Grounds be and is hereby requested to lay before the House the bills, or copies of the bills, that have been reported and approved by the committee or under its direction, covering claims for personal service, labor, materials or furnishings of any kind used in the fitting up of Grace church for the use of the Legislature.

The bill introduced by Mr. Boger, Philadelphia, increasing the penalty for repeating to five years imprisonment, passed. The bill to tax bicycles, tricycles, pleasure carriages and traction engines passed third reading after amendments had been defeated.

The bill to tax bicycles and tricycles owned by persons under 14 years old.

In the Senate, by a unanimous vote, the defeat of the Clarence building society bill, upon motion of Mr. Osborn, was reconsidered and it was agreed to postpone further consideration of the measure for the present.

The Governor sent to the Senate a veto of the local Cambria tax collector act.

These appointments were confirmed: John P. Iams, Greene, manager of Morgana Reform school; John McDowell, superintendent of National road; John D. Shafer, judge of the Fifth district, Allegheny county.

June 15. The bill to levy \$1 a year on pleasure carriages, bicycles and tricycles, and \$3 on traction engines was defeated. The money that was to have been raised in this manner has gone toward the improvement of roads.

Mr. Baldwin, who had the bill in charge, said it would have netted the state \$600,000. The bill was defeated.

The inheritance tax case was being read. There is not much hope for the passage of this bill. The striking out of the \$5,000 exemption clause has caused much dissatisfaction, and the bill is regarded by many as iniquitous.

Another cause for opposition is the failure of the senate to act on the Biles bill taxing beer. The proposition to tax beer has many friends in the house, and they propose to juggle with the direct inheritance tax bill until they can force the senate to pass the beer bill, which have already passed the house.

The direct inheritance bill is now in shape to be called up at any time, but it is certain that the advocates of the measure will take great pains to defeat it.

In the senate the prison bill limiting the number of inmates of state prisons, penitentiaries and other penal institutions to be employed in manufacturing goods therein to 20 per cent, and prohibiting the use of machinery in such manufacture was passed.

Providing that licensed brewers shall sell to licensed dealers not less than a dozen pints or in packages of not less than an eighth of a barrel, and further than one person or association can own or control two breweries upon the payment of \$1,999 license for each, passed finally.

June 17. The Senate made more progress with the tariff bill to-day than on any day since its debate opened. The schedules on spirits and wines and on manufactured cotton goods were completed. A new paragraph was added to compensate the cotton manufacturers for the placing of raw cotton on the dutiable list. It provides that on all cotton yarns finer than No. 19 single, and the goods manufactured therefrom, the duty shall be 10 per cent, in addition to the rates of the cotton schedule.

The House was in session an hour and a half, most of the time being taken up with roll calls. Mr. Sulzer, Democrat, New York, succeeded in injecting into the proceedings a brief speech in favor of Cuba, in which he denounced Weyler as a "thief" and "murderer."

The bill for the relief of the residents of Greer county, Oklahoma, was passed. The House adjourned till Monday.

THE NATIONAL GAME.

The St. Louis reorganized Browns are playing a much improved game of ball.

Ritchey, of the Cincinnati, is a strict vegetarian. He has not tasted meat since early childhood.

Judged by the Soekalexis standard what would be the matter with a team that was all Indiana? Nothing much, apparently.

The Cincinnati would rather beat Pittsburg than any other team in the League, yet they invariably play their worst games against the "Pirates."

It is a pleasure to see Demontreville, of Washington, play short. He belongs to the "Little Giant" class as a ball player, with Keeler, Duffy and Geier.

Jennings's hitting is way below last season's form, and unless the Browns immediately stop takes a big brace he won't figure among the top-notch batsmen.

So far Banlon's judgment in setting adrift Hemming, Esper and McMahon has been vindicated. They haven't set the world afire with their new clubs.

There are nine married men on the Louisville team. They are Weicker, Egan, Clingman, Rogers, Fraser, McFarlen, Stafford, Pickering and Cunningham.

Keeler, of the Baltimore, is considered the most scientific batsman to-day in the League. He stands close to the plate and tries to place every ball that he hits at.

That pitcher's lugbear, the "costly base on balls," is playing as prominent a part in the game as ever this season. Many a game is lost through just one free pass to first given at the wrong time.

The old Leaguers who were drafted back from the minor organizations this season are doing well in that company, notably Reilly, Verdun, Hartman, Schriver, Huteblson and Wilson.

The Australians who came to America in the hope that they could put up presentable baseball saw the Baltimore and Chicago teams. They were rendered speechless by the sight of men capturing hot-shot liners and grounders and by the way the fielders invariably caught high flies.

What astonished them greatly was that no applause followed a fly catch in the outfield.

Horace S. Fogel says: "That Cincinnati team is a puzzle. Made up almost entirely of 'pick-up' players 'cast off' by other clubs—vide Burke, Hor, Irwin, Vaughn, Ewing, Schriver, Ehret, Dwyer and several others, not to mention Rhines, who was resurrected last year, and McInnes, who has been playing almost a quarter of a century—this combination, nevertheless, puts up a game almost impossible to beat, and promises to be a strong competitor for this year's championship."

The Rev. Henry Rupp, the oldest active clergyman in Illinois, now in his 93d year, is still strong and vigorous, and preaches every Sunday.